

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 15 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 13 have been allowed. By this response, claim 14 is amended and claim 15 added. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine et al. (US 6,476,869) in view of Yokota et al. (US 5,905,530). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 has been amended to now recite "wherein an image of a first region larger than a second region displayed and specified by a viewfinder is shot by said image sensor element, the first region including the second region and a region of assumed missing of pixels which is to be caused as a result of the correction by said lens characteristic correction unit." Applicants respectfully submit that this feature of Applicants' independent claim 14 is not taught by the combination of Sekine and Yokota.

In the section titled "Response to Arguments" in the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Figure 3 of Sekine et al, teaches the claimed features of "an image of a region larger than a photographic region" (shown in Fig. 3c element b of applicants' disclosure) in which the image line 44 is larger than the line 42 formed by the correction of the image characteristics. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that in embodiments of the present invention an image of region larger than a photographic region is focused on an image sensor element. See page 5, lines 4-5 of applicants specification which discusses forming the subject image on a sensor 30 as a function of an image forming lens 32. In Sekine et al, the image correction from the line 42 to

the line 44 is performed in an aberration correcting unit 58 shown in Fig. 4, but is not performed in the image sensor element.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to clarify this distinction. Specifically, claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, wherein an image of a first region larger than a second region displayed and specified by a viewfinder is shot by said image sensor element, the first region including the second region and a region of assumed missing of pixels which is to be caused as a result of the correction by said lens characteristic correction unit, as recited in claim 14. Sekine et al's apparatus does not relate a larger image region from the image region being specified by a viewfinder with image sensor elements, such that the larger image region is shot by the image sensor elements although not viewed in the viewfinder.

Therefore, in view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that Sekine et al, fails to teach each feature for which it is alleged to teach. Further, Yokota fails to remedy the differences of Sekine. Yokota is provided to teach the claimed data processing unit. Yokota does not teach or suggest the above-recited features of independent claim 14.

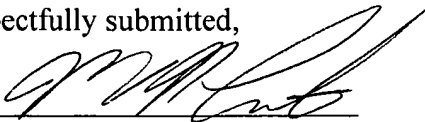
Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Sekine et al and Yokota fail to teach all the features of Applicants' independent claim 14 as required. Dependent claim 15 is also distinguishable over the teachings of Sekine et al and Yokota for the above reasons as well as for the additional features it recites. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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